News From
Maggie Brooks
Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS ANNOUNCES GM FUEL CELL DEVELOPMENT CENTER IS NOVEMBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today announced that General Motors' Fuel Cell Development Center has been selected as Monroe County's "Business of the Month" for November and will be featured on Monroe County's website, monroecounty.gov. Brooks launched the online "Business of the Month" feature last year, in an effort to recognize and promote local companies that are impacting the community's economic vitality.

"*Anytime you read about a GM fuel cell car, that fuel cell was made right here in Monroe County. That's something that puts our community on the map and we can all be proud that this work is taking place in our own backyard*," said **Brooks**. "*GM's fuel cell development is greatly impacting our economic vitality, as well as our future growth and ability to capitalize on alternative energy opportunities as we move forward. That will ultimately mean more jobs for our residents, a cleaner environment and energy independence. Monroe County is proud to be home to this innovative and groundbreaking company*."

General Motors' Fuel Cell Development Center in Honeoye Falls opened in 1999 and is one of only four GM fuel cell R&D facilities in the world. Most of GM's fuel cell development activities occur at the Monroe County facility. GM's goal is to take the automobile out of the environmental debate. The work undertaken at this facility by Chief Engineer Matt Fronk and his team is key for GM to reach its goal.

The Fuel Cell Development Center is responsible for the development of Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cells for automotive applications. To date, this facility has been granted over 150 patents, with over 350 patents still pending. In 2001, COMIDA provided incentives for the company to expand its facilities and research and development efforts, ultimately creating more jobs. The company currently employs 325 people, up from approximately 160 in 2001.

A fuel cell harnesses the electricity created in the chemical reaction that occurs when hydrogen and oxygen are combined. Hundreds of fuel cells are "stacked" together, combining their electrical outputs into enough electricity to power a car.

"*Fuel cell development is one of the fastest growing emerging technologies in the world. As a hub for this activity, the Rochester region is well positioned to be a leader in the field*," **Brooks** added.

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